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May 24, 2012

**STATEMENT REGARDING CITIZEN REQUEST TO USE
CATAWBA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTER GROUNDS**

On Wednesday morning, Catawba County received an email request to use the grounds of the Catawba County Justice Center on Sunday, May 27, 2012. While Catawba County is firmly committed to citizens' rights of peaceable assembly, this request has not been granted. There has been no formal application filed at this time. However, staff has met with the requester, explained the relevant sections of the County code that govern the public use of grounds and facilities, and provided an application.

County regulations governing the public use of grounds and facilities exist in order to ensure public safety, protect public property, and insulate taxpayers from undue liability and risk. Some of these regulations include:

- Complete applications must be received in the County Manager's Office at least 14 days prior to the date of the proposed use
- Non-profit educational, civic, cultural and environmental groups are eligible
- Applicants must represent groups that have been in existence for at least one year prior to making the request
- Depending upon the type of event, proof of insurance may be required

Based on staff's current understanding of the proposed event, the requester has been advised that a formal application would be denied because the application would not conform with the regulations outlined above.

All inquiries should be directed to Debra Bechtel at (828) 465-8319 or debra@catawbacountync.gov

